



## Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Susan Silas

I am a dual American and Hungarian national, born in New York City. I completed my graduate studies at Cal Arts in 1983 and moved back to New York.

I have produced and exhibited several major photographic and video works, including one sound piece exploring issues related to the reception of the Holocaust by the second generation. In 1998, I retraced the steps of a 1945 death march, walking 225 miles in Germany and what is now the Czech Republic. This work, Helmbrechts walk, 1998-2003 was shown at the Staller Center at Stony Brook in 2000, The Koffler Gallery in Toronto in 2005, Hebrew Union College Museum in 2009, Kunstverein Grafschaft Bentheim in Neuenhaus, Germany in 2010, Kunsthalle Exnergasse in Vienna, Austria in 2010 and Center for Contemporary Art, Celje, Slovenia in 2011.

Academic interest tracing my practice and work has increased in recent years. My work Helmbrechts walk, 1998-2003, is the subject of a chapter in Landscapes of Holocaust Postmemory by Brett Ashley Kaplan, published by Routledge in 2011. A chapter of Dora Apel's, Memory Affects; The Holocaust and the Art of Secondary Witnessing is devoted to my recent work. My works are cited in Unwanted Beauty; Aesthetic Pleasure in Holocaust Representation, also by Brett Ashley Kaplan.

From the non-monumental memorializing of female victims of the Shoah in the work Helmbrechts walk, 1998-2003 realized through my physical presence in the landscape, my work moved into a more metaphorical realm with the series of images and video works in found birds; 2000 - the present; works which explore the decay of dead birds. The passage of time is investigated in another ongoing series through the middle-aged female face and body in the self-portrait sessions, and in the ongoing plaster casting of my face since the mid-'90's. These works were the subject of my recent solo exhibition at CB1 Gallery in Los Angeles.

My occasional essays have been published in The New York Times, Exquisite Corpse, thirteen.org REEL 13, Frog, and Podium (the online literary magazine of the 92nd Street Y). I am co-editor (with Chrysanne Stathacos) of the art blog MOMMY, an interview format appreciation of mid-career women artists. I have received fellowships from The New Space Foundation in Hue, Vietnam, The Corporation of Yaddo, The MacDowell Colony, VCCA and the Ucross Foundation.